

make! Sadly, he leaves behind a wonderful family that is just beginning to deal with their great loss. His wife Alice and his children Heather, Shawn and Chad are in my thoughts and prayers during this terribly difficult time.

North Dakotans not only lost a smart, caring legislator—they lost a good friend in Bill Oban. The newspaper from the State's largest city, The Forum, joined with the rest of the State in mourning the huge loss, calling Bill a family man first, an educator second, a lawmaker third. Knowing Bill, I am sure that is exactly how he would have liked people to remember him.

BILL OBAN WILL BE MISSED

North Dakotans didn't have to agree with state Rep. Bill Oban in order to respect his commitment to the people of his state. When the Bismarck Democrat died Friday from injuries suffered in an automobile crash a few days before, the state lost a compassionate and intelligent legislator.

Oban, 51, earned the respect of his colleagues because of his dedication to his ideals. His passion, which sometimes rose to indignant anger, made for lively committee meetings and floor debates in the state House of Representatives.

Even his political foes enjoyed Oban's style because they understood his determination to make North Dakota a better place for all. As a member of the minority, he often lost the issue, but never lost his sense of humor.

Oban grew up in New Rockford, lived in Grafton, and eventually settled his family in Bismarck. He had a good grasp of the different needs of rural and urban counties.

He was a family man first, an educator second, a lawmaker third. That combination served him well as an advocate for youth, families and people in need.

One of Oban's colleagues described him as "the conscience" of his political party. We would extend that characterization. His record suggests he was the conscience of the Legislature, often reminding the House of its responsibility to all North Dakotans, no matter their social or economic status.

North Dakotans say goodbye to Oban today. We join with his family, friends, and colleagues in mourning his death. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my Congressional District, I was not present for roll call votes 267 through 274. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll call 267, no on roll call 268, yea on roll call 269, aye on roll call 270, nay on roll call 271, nay on roll call 272, nay on roll call 273 and aye on roll call 274.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB HOULDING SR.

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Houlding Sr., for

being recognized as the recipient of the 1998 Senior Farmer of the year award. Mr. Houlding has been providing dedicated services to the agricultural community for Madera County since the 1920's and is very deserving of this honor.

Mr. Houlding family's connection to Madera goes back to the 1800's. Bob Houlding Sr. is the son of William and Ludema Houlding. William Houlding came with his family from Nebraska to Madera in 1891. Bob Houlding Sr.'s brothers are Frank, Bill and Vigil, and his sister Ludema (Houlding) Weis.

Mr. Houlding started school in 1922 at Howard School, the year it was built, and graduated from Madera High School in 1934. In 1939, Bob Sr. joined the Air Force to serve his country, staying in until 1946. He initially signed up for a 3-year hitch, but just as his first tour was nearing its end, World War II broke out and he continued to serve. In the Air Force he worked as an engineer, repairing B-24s and B-29s in the 21st Bomb Squadron and serving in places such as New Orleans, La.; Riverside Ca.; Kansas; and the Aleutian Islands.

In 1942 he married Mildred Sonier. After marrying, the couple raised three sons, Bob Jr., Jerry and Mike. Mr. Houlding continued to farm once he returned to Madera, growing cotton, alfalfa, wheat and potatoes. As the years passed, Bob Houlding Sr. got his sons involved, and now together they own 3,500 acres in Madera and on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. His grandchildren and their spouses are also involved in the farming. All of the grandchildren are graduates, current students, or have aspirations of attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Houlding began by farming row crops, but since 1976, has moved into growing tomatoes, cotton, wheat and almonds on the west side of Madera and Fresno County. Mr. Houlding's action plan for farming has always been to diversify the kinds of crops he grows and to use modern farming techniques as micro-sprinklers. Mr. Houlding has been a great proponent of reduced pesticide usage through the introduction of predator insects and water conservation through the installation of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

Mr. Houlding has always been supportive to his community and youth in agriculture. He was a member of the board of directors of the Golden State Gin, a member of the Trade Club, and a charter member of the Reel and Gun Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Bob Houlding Sr. for receiving the Senior Farmer 1998 Award for Madera County. I applaud Mr. Houlding's dedicated services and leadership to the agricultural community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Houlding many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, during roll call vote number 267 on June 25, 1998, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

LABOR/HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of the FY99 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill, which is being marked up by the full Appropriations Committee this afternoon.

While this year's legislation saves taxpayers nearly \$2.6 billion, Chairman PORTER and his subcommittee have ensured that this Congress remains committed to the health of every American family. I am very pleased to note that this year's legislation contains almost \$100 million more than President Clinton requested for the National Institutes of Health. We simply can't retreat in the fight against disease and sickness and this bill continues our commitment to vital research.

I am also pleased with the subcommittee's continued commitment to education in America. The subcommittee took a major step toward loosening the government restrictions that hamper local efforts at improving our children's education. I strongly support the subcommittee's recommendation to reduce GOALS 2000 funding by one-half. The GOALS 2000 program required states to develop complex student performance standards while subverting the ability of local school boards and families to decide what's best for their children. These "standards" measure only the cash, number of employees, and programs in the schools, while ignoring the results in terms of what our children learn. The federal bureaucracy's role in education has expanded over the years, but little has been done to foster the real reform that our children need.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. PORTER for his continued hard work and dedication as Chairman of this important subcommittee. I support his legislation and I look forward to its full consideration in the House.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN VANDER LANS, CITY PROSECUTOR OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of the Honorable John Vander Lans, the City Prosecutor of Long Beach, California. I have been privileged to know John Vander Lans for over 20 years.

John Vander Lans was raised in Long Beach where he attended St. Anthony High School and Long Beach City College. He served 2 years in the United States Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Captain. After completing studies for his law degree at the Loyola School of Law, John went to work for the California Attorney General. He then worked for 18 months as a deputy Long Beach city prosecutor, before going into private practice in Long Beach.

John Vander Lans, was first elected to the City Prosecutor's office in 1978. Long Beach